



April 30, 2019

Mark Searle  
Executive Vice President and University Provost  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, AZ 85281

Nikki Tran  
President  
USG-Tempe  
VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Ms. Tran,

I write today in reference to Senate Resolution 15, passed by the Tempe Senate Tuesday, April 23, 2019.

In the resolution, your colleagues asked my office and the office of W. P. Carey Dean Amy Hillman to respond to a request for an external review of the allegations of misconduct by ASU's Department of Economics. Please consider this letter as that response.

While I feel strongly that each allegation is false, I agree with your view that there is a need for a third party to review the facts in question in a deliberative and thoughtful manner.

To that end, ASU has retained The Honorable Ruth V. McGregor, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona, to conduct the review.

In determining who would best serve this important function, the university looked for someone with unimpeachable integrity and credentials who could be counted on to be fair, impartial and honest in the execution of this important task.

Justice McGregor will have the full cooperation of the university as she conducts her review.

Enclosed, please find a copy of my letter to the Justice, asking for her involvement in this process.

I hope you will avail yourselves of an opportunity to meet with Justice McGregor to express your concerns about the situation and your hopes for what her review will accomplish. I have asked the Office of the General Counsel to assist with scheduling, should you request it. You can contact OGC at 480-965-4550 or by emailing [ogcmail@asu.edu](mailto:ogcmail@asu.edu).

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST**

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In the resolution, your colleagues also requested a comparison of the grade distributions between traditional and adaptive learning courses. I expect Justice McGregor's review to consider this comparison.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and thank you for all you do for our university.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Searle', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Searle  
Executive Vice President and University Provost

CC:

Senator Nicole Morote  
Senator Edward Joseph Nolan  
Senator Nate Belcher, Senator John Hopkins  
Senator Henry Han  
Senator Varun Susarla  
Alyson Perkins, USG-Downtown President  
Alexander Haw, USG-West President  
Michelle Govani Sullivan, GPSA President  
Daniel Pasco, USG-Polytechnic President